

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 747

By Turner M

A RESOLUTION to propose an amendment to Article II, Section 3, Article IV, and Article VII, Section 5 of the Constitution of Tennessee, relative to elections.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That a majority of all the members of each house concurring, as shown by the yeas and nays entered on their journals, that it is proposed:

In order to provide for more consistency and efficiency in state government, that Article II, Section 3, of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee be amended by:

(1) deleting the words and punctuation "Representatives shall hold office for two years" and by substituting instead the language "Representatives shall hold office for four years"; and

(2) adding the following language at the end of the section:

In order to establish staggered terms for half of the members of the general assembly, in the first general election after the adoption of this amendment, Representatives elected in districts designated by odd numbers shall be elected for two years and those elected in districts designated by even numbers shall be elected for four years. Thereafter, Representatives shall be elected for four years.

In order to provide for higher participation in the electoral process of judicial and civil officers and at the same time limiting the cost of conducting elections, it is further proposed, that Article VII, Section 5 be amended by deleting the first two sentences of the section in their entirety and by substituting instead the following language:

Primary elections for Judicial and other civil officers shall be held on the first Thursday in August next preceding the expiration of their respective terms of service. All regular elections for Judicial and other civil officers shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November next preceding the expiration of the official's respective term of service. The term of each officer so elected shall be computed from the first day of December next succeeding such officer's election. The terms of office of the incumbent on the effective date of this amendment shall be extended until the incumbent's successor is elected and qualified as provided in this section.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the foregoing be referred to the One Hundred Fifth General Assembly and that this resolution proposing such amendment be published in accordance with Article XI, Section 3 of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the clerk of the house of representatives is directed to deliver a copy of this resolution to the secretary of state.